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# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 21 | Humidity 79% Cloudy and breezy Sensex 82,253 | Nifty 25,082 | Gold 97,636 | Silver 1,13,072 | Dollar 86.03 | Euro 100.56 | GBP 115.55

## SAFETY FEATURE

Posters, videos, and online campaigns to popularise KSP app designed for situations where audio call to cops not enough

PAGE 3

## NO QR FOR THIS

Fearing tax scrutiny, traders are slowing putting away the QR codes and asking customers to pay in cash

PAGE 5

### Auto drivers caught unawares by sudden crackdown on unauthorised advertisements on their vehicles and fines of up to Rs 5,000 say authorities should first spread awareness about rule before doling out punishment

# CAUGHT IN A PENALTY CORNER

## No film poster, insurance sticker or QR code can be on display

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**“The government expects compliance, but hasn’t ensured that the rules are accessible. Many fall for ad offers that pay a few hundred rupees and end up paying thousands of rupees in fines**

— Auto Drivers’ Union source

Autorickshaw drivers were in for a surprise as the Transport Department cracked down on unauthorised advertising on their vehicles.

Fines of up to Rs 5,000 were slapped on the drivers by the department, days after its action against bike taxis.

Hundreds of auto-rickshaw drivers have been penalised after Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) across the city conducted surprise inspections. The enforcement drive was initiated following directions from the Transport minister to ensure compliance with Motor Vehicle Rules.

The rule under the Motor Vehicles Act and relevant transport regulations is that no advertisement, be it a film poster, insurance sticker, or QR code, is permitted to be displayed on a commercial vehicle without prior permission from the competent authority.

According to the conditions specified under the permit, accessed by BM, “The vehicle relating to the permit shall exhibit no advertisement devices, figures or printing,” unless explicitly allowed by the District Magistrate (DM) through general or specific orders.

Even drivers whose permits, Fitness Certificates (FCs), and insurance papers are valid have not been spared if found in violation of the advertisement rule. “They’ve given us three months to fix our FC, documents, insurance, and permits, but this sudden crackdown on advertisements is happening alongside and most of us don’t even

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

# School’s in, books not yet

### Several textbooks yet to be supplied to schools as delays corrode education system

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Though the new academic year began 45 days ago, some of the text books are yet to be distributed at Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), government and private high schools across the state. Headmasters of the schools said that delays in distribution of textbooks has become a routine and the authorities concerned have failed to take measures to ensure the books were with the kids in June itself.

“The first instalment of textbooks were supplied on June 19 and the remaining books are yet to be supplied. We are yet to get two to three textbooks. Textbooks are being supplied late every year and it affects the students,” said a headmaster of a government high school on the condition of anonymity.

A BBMP High School Headmaster in East Zone said the supplier is yet to supply textbooks for second and third languages. “Every year we demand that they supply textbooks on time and they continue to delay it. I am not sure when the authorised supplier will provide the students with the remaining textbooks,” said a BBMP High School Headmaster.

Demanding the Karnataka Textbook Society to supply textbooks on time, Ejazullah Khan, a headmaster, said the Karnataka Textbook Society officials take

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Tune in

Known for his genre-defying sound, internationally acclaimed guitarist Oz Noy is performing with his trio, bringing a bold blend of jazz, funk, rock, and blues.
**Where: Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield;**
**When: July 18 and 19, 9.30 pm**

### 02 Budding businesses

WeVyasa is organising 'We Expo 2.0', a three-day exhibition aimed at encouraging entrepreneurs and providing a platform to promote their businesses. The exhibition will feature domestic goods at reasonable rates.
**Where: Palace Grounds, Jayamahal;**
**When: July 18 to 20**

### 03 Stage stories

Ranga Shankara is hosting the 15th edition of 'AHA! Theatre for Children Festival', featuring plays from across India, based on themes of self-discovery, courage, and imagination. Each play invites children to question, explore, and connect.
**Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;**
**When: July 15 to 19, 7.30 pm**

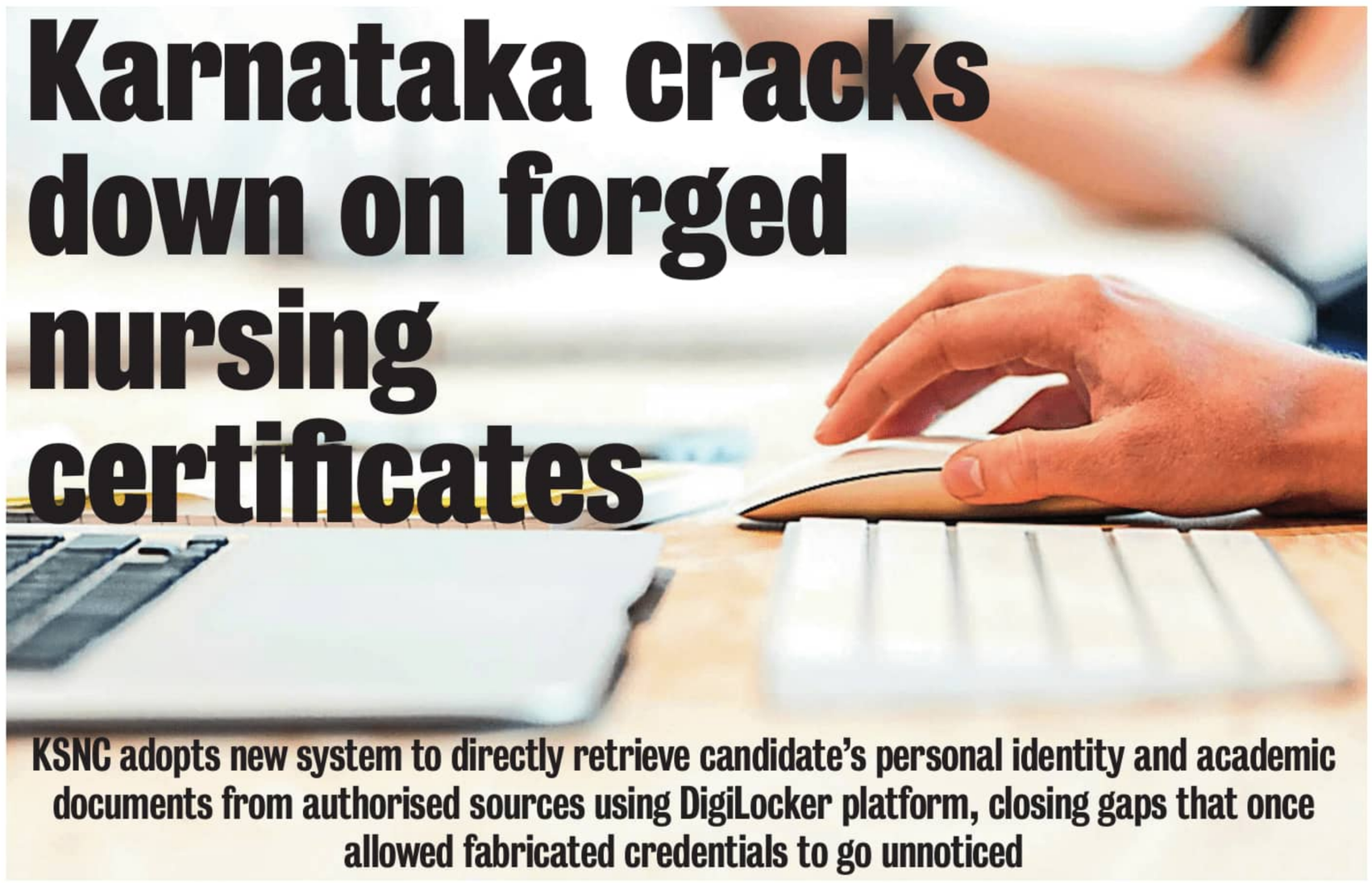
### 04 Unique finds

Swadeshi Art and Craft Exhibition is bringing an exclusive sale of handlooms, handicrafts, jewellery, sarees, clothing, accessories, khadi kurtas, suit pieces, and home accessories.
**Where: Srinivasa Kalyana Mantapa, Jayanagar;**
**When: July 6 to 16, 10.30 am to 9 pm**

### 05 Just kidding

As part of his India tour, Inder Sahani is bringing a standup comedy show filled with relatable jokes, quick wit, and his impromptu skills.
**Where: The Underground Comedy Club, Koramangala;**
**When: July 18, 8 pm**

# Karnataka cracks down on forged nursing certificates



**KSNC adopts new system to directly retrieve candidate's personal identity and academic documents from authorised sources using DigiLocker platform, closing gaps that once allowed fabricated credentials to go unnoticed**

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**The platform uses DigiLocker's e-KYC technology to access Aadhaar information, including photograph, address, and biometric verification, enabling the Nursing Council to also fetch candidates' SSLC and PUC marks cards**

The Department of Medical Education has launched a new digital registration system for nurses, aimed at eliminating the growing menace of forged certificates and fake registrations. The move comes in response to repeated instances of individuals entering the healthcare workforce using counterfeit documents, which has raised serious concerns about public safety and the credibility of nursing education.

For years, the Karnataka State Nursing Council (KSNC) has dealt with cases of duplicate or fake registration certificates submitted by candidates seeking nursing jobs in hospitals, both within Karnataka and in other states. Manual submission of documents and physical verification left room for manipulation and fraud. Fake Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) and Pre-University Course (PUC) marks cards, doctored Aadhaar cards, and fabricated university results were often difficult to trace, especially when submitted by out-of-state applicants. In some cases, certificates were found to be entirely forged, with no traceable record in official databases.

To address this systemic issue, the KSNC, in coordination with the Department of Medical Education, has introduced a new Aadhaar-based DigiLocker registration system — a first of its kind in the country. Using the Government of India's DigiLocker platform, the system allows for direct verification and retrieval of a candidate's personal identity and academic documents from authorised sources.

According to Medical Education Minister Dr Sharanaprakash R Patil, the platform uses DigiLocker's e-KYC technology to access Aadhaar information, including photograph, address, and biometric verification. It also enables the Nursing Council to fetch SSLC and PUC marks cards from the respective state boards and university examination results from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) and the Karnataka State Nursing Examination Board through the DigiLocker-Requester interface.

Once verified, the KSNC issues the nurse registration certificate digitally via the DigiLocker-Issuer framework, eliminating the need for physical copies and in-person collection. The new process is scheduled to be formally launched on July 15 by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Earlier, applicants — many of them from rural areas and other states — were required to travel to the KSNC office in Bengaluru for registration. This involved significant time, expense, and logistical challenges, particularly for women candidates, including pregnant women and new mothers. The digital shift now removes that burden, making the process accessible remotely.

KSNC Registrar Dr K Mallu said that the initiative marks a critical step in securing the integrity of the nursing profession. By sourcing documents only from official servers, the system closes the gaps that once allowed forged credentials to go unnoticed. Authorities believe this model can be replicated by other professional councils facing similar concerns.

With lakhs of nurses registering across India every year, Karnataka's move sets a precedent for integrating technology into regulatory frameworks to ensure transparency, accuracy, and accountability.

## ICMR advises Indians to reduce salt intake

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has urged Indians to reduce their salt consumption to curb the rising incidence of hypertension, heart disease, and kidney-related ailments in the country. The recommendation follows a detailed study by ICMR and associated scientists. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the ideal daily salt intake per person should not exceed 5 grams. However, the study revealed that people in urban India consume an average of 9.2 grams per day, while those in rural areas consume about 5.6 grams—both exceeding recommended limits. ICMR scientists have suggested that individuals replace sodium-based salt with alternatives rich in potassium and magnesium to reduce health risks. "Excessive salt consumption is directly linked to major non-communicable diseases. It's time for people to be more mindful," said Dr Sharan Murali, a leading researcher involved in the study. **–BMB**

## Over 4,000 Anganwadis to have pre-primary classes

The Department of Women and Child Development has decided to start LKG and UKG (pre-primary) classes in over 4,000 Anganwadi centres across the state by October, coinciding with the department's 50th anniversary as an independent body. As part of the initiative, smart TVs, learning tools, and training for Anganwadi workers are being arranged to enhance early childhood education. While no new staff will be hired, over 17,000 existing graduate-level Anganwadi workers will be deployed

to teach children aged 3 to 6. Initially, 4,000 to 5,000 centres equipped with the required infrastructure, such as two classrooms, will be covered, with expansion planned in different phases. Instruction will be delivered in both Kannada and English. **–BMB**

## Book on life of Guru Teg Bahadur to be released in Kannada

The Amritsar-based Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) will publish a booklet on the life of the ninth Sikh master, Guru Tegh Bahadur, in Kannada language for the Sikh community in Karnataka, said SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami. Dhami's statement came during a function at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Bengaluru, organised to mark the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadur.

Dhami also announced that SGPC will send preachers to the state to educate children about Punjabi and Gurbani, along with plans to donate books to establish libraries at gurudwaras. Dhami appealed to local Sikh leadership and sangat to actively advocate for the release of Bandi Singhs (Sikh prisoners). **–BMB**

# SOS: Police want you to know your emergency response app

## Awareness on Safe Connect, an app that combines live video, location tracking, and emergency alerts, is low so police are going all out to make sure citizens know more about this initiative

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In a move to boost emergency response systems and improve public safety, the Bengaluru City Police is ramping up awareness around 'Safe Connect', a video-calling feature within the KSP Mobile App. Though launched on July 6, 2025 by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, officials say usage remains lower than the traditional Dial 112 helpline.

The feature is now being promoted through posters, videos, and digital campaigns. "We realised public awareness was low. The aim is to encourage proactive use, especially when an audio call isn't enough," said Joint Commissioner of Police (Admin) Kuldeep Kumar Jain.

**"We realised public awareness was low. The goal now is to encourage proactive use of Safe Connect — especially when an audio call isn't enough**

— Kuldeep Kumar Jain, Joint Commissioner of Police (Admin)

### Real-time visuals, location sharing, and mobile reach

Safe Connect allows users to make audio-video calls directly to the Safe City Command Centre, letting police assess emergencies through real-time visuals. Once the distress button is activated, the caller's live location is transmitted, while audio and video are recorded as evidence.

"Even a 20-second call gives us enough data — location, visuals, urgency — to respond as swiftly as we do via 112," Jain added.

Unlike fixed 'safety islands', the mobile-based feature offers coverage anywhere in the city. It's especially useful on the move, as it captures location trails and directional movement — crucial in tracking threats.

If a victim's phone is snatched during or after a distress call, video, images, and location data are already sent to the command centre, aiding investigations.

### Trip Monitoring under consideration

The core feature is fully operational, and officials are now evaluating the introduction of a "Trip Monitoring" option — a feature that would allow users to share their travel path. "We'll introduce it only if there's public demand," said a senior official.

### One app, one purpose

Authorities clarified that public safety services are consolidated in two apps: the KSP App for emergency support, and Astram for traffic operations. Any new features for citizens will be added to the KSP App to avoid confusion.

With over 1.5 million active users, the police are banking on the renewed awareness push to ensure more people not only download the app but also utilise features like Safe Connect during critical moments.

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## CRIME FILES

### Auto driver stabbed after drunken brawl

An auto driver was stabbed following a drunken altercation with friends near a bar in the Chamarajpet police limits on Friday night. The victim, identified as 24-year-old Tejas, a resident near the Post Office area, is undergoing treatment at a hospital for serious injuries.

According to police, Tejas and a group of friends had gathered for drinks, when a heated argument broke out among them over petty reasons, including Tejas talking to another friend and a dispute over being served more alcohol.

The quarrel escalated after they stepped out of the bar. One of the accused allegedly went home, returned with a machete, and waited for an opportunity. As Tejas was driving his auto, the attacker stopped the vehicle, dragged him out, and stabbed him multiple times in the neck and leg before fleeing the scene. Tejas, left bleeding on the road, was rescued by passersby who rushed him to the hospital. Chamarajpet police are examining CCTV footage and questioning bar staff for leads.

### 2 killed in hit-and-run near Devanahalli

Two young men lost their lives in a hit-and-run accident on the Devanahalli–Dabbaspet Road near Viswanathapura taluk on Sunday afternoon. The victims have been identified as Shirool Ravi Teja, an IT professional, and Bachala Ravi, a car driver — both hailing from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.

According to police reports, the duo was travelling from Devanahalli to Doddaballapur on a two-wheeler around 3.30 pm. A speeding car rammed into the rear of their bike, dragged them for nearly 50 metres, and ran over Teja before fleeing the scene. A biker travelling in the opposite direction on the one-way road narrowly avoided collision.

Locals rushed the victims to a nearby hospital, but doctors declared them dead. Officers said the car's number plate was traced, but the accused driver had turned off his phone and is suspected to have fled to a neighbouring state. A manhunt is underway to nab the driver.

### Prison radicalisation: 8 accused plead guilty

Eight of the 12 accused in the 2023 Bengaluru prison radicalisation case, including the prime accused Thadiyantavida Naseer have moved a plea before the NIA special court in the city, admitting guilt and seeking leniency.

Naseer, 47, along with co-accused Syed Suhail Khan (24), Mohammed Umar (30), Zahid Tabrez (27), Syed Mudassir Pasha (29), Mohammed Faisal Rabbani alias Sadath (29), Salman Khan (29), and Vikram Kumar alias Chhota Usman, submitted their plea under Section 229 of the CrPC on July 7. The section allows conviction based on a guilty plea, without a prolonged trial, if the court is satisfied that the plea is voluntary.

The NIA is yet to respond on record to the application, and sources said the agency will submit its version shortly. The accused told the court their decision was voluntary and not coerced, in a likely attempt to reduce the quantum of punishment.

## Entrepreneur pledges Rs 1 cr to decongest B'luru

A Bengaluru-based tech entrepreneur on Monday pledged ₹1 crore to tackle the city's infamous traffic woes using Artificial Intelligence and Google Maps data on an X post.

After spending over 2 hours covering just 11 km on Outer Ring Road late Saturday night 100 minutes of which were spent at a single unidentified choke-point with no traffic cop or signal the commuter decided to take action.

"I don't want one more Bengaluru traffic meme or rant. I want to fix it," Prashant Pitti wrote in a viral X post.

The initiative aims to identify and map all major traffic choke-points across the city using Google Maps' newly released "Road Management Insight" data (available since April 2025), satellite imagery, and advanced AI models.

The plan includes hiring 1–2 senior AI/ML engineers and investing in Google Maps API access, GPU computing, and data tools.

The citizen's call to action, however, comes with a condition: the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) must open their raw traffic feeds or API access and assign a dedicated team to act on the data insights generated. **BMB**

# Stray dog welfare gets a major BBMP push

## From mass vaccinations to feeding drives and microchipping, BBMP intensifies efforts to ensure safer streets and healthier stray dogs across Bengaluru

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Community dogs are given daily meals to curb aggression and reduce bite incidents under BBMP's 'Bite-Free Locality' initiative

The Animal Husbandry Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is set to intensify its 5-in-1 vaccination program for stray dogs this year.

The program has received a boost with an increase in allocations for 2025-26, from ₹4 crore in 2024-25 to ₹4.71 crore this year.

The drive to vaccinate street dogs with the 5-in-1 vaccine, along with the Anti-Rabies vaccine, began in February this year. According to BBMP, nearly 70,000 dogs within BBMP limits were vaccinated with the combined vaccine in the last financial year.

Officials say the plan this year is to cover 70% of the total street dog population in the city, protecting them from canine distemper, canine hepatitis, canine parvovirus, canine parainfluenza, and canine leptospirosis, in addition to rabies.

"Between April and June, nearly 50K stray dogs have been vaccinated with the 5-in-1 vaccine. In the last financial year, we had vaccinated nearly 20K dogs. The program has been put on full throttle, and we plan to cover nearly 2 lakh dogs in the city by the end of the ongoing financial year," said a senior official from the Animal Husbandry Department.

Officials say the process to administer the combined vaccine is safe, and the mass drive was taken up only after the success of a pilot program.

> **"The program has been put on full throttle — we plan to cover nearly 2 lakh dogs in the city by year-end**
>
> –Senior BBMP official

The department will soon launch its microchipping program to implant microchips in stray dogs in the field as well as at the ABC centre. For the implementation of this program in 2025-26 across all eight zones, an estimated amount of ₹3.45 crore has been allocated.

"The project is yet to take off due to a delay in the tendering process. A fresh tender is expected to be rolled out this week," informed the official.

Under its 'Bite-Free Locality' campaign, the civic agency has been feeding stray dogs to reduce bite incidents. Under this initiative, community dogs are fed at least once a day to calm aggressive animals and reduce dog bite cases. An estimated ₹2.88 crore has been allocated for this project.

"The objective of this program is to identify 100 places in each zone, with an average of five dogs in each spot, and provide good quality food to 500 community dogs every day. We will also be installing notice boards across all feeding spots in the city to inform the public and feeders about the rules to be followed. The notice boards are being installed at places with high footfall in the city," said the official.

# Guarantee schemes ahead, others lag behind

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Despite announcing an ambitious ₹4.09 lakh crore budget for 2025–26, the Karnataka government has spent only 14.07% of the allocated funds in the first quarter (April–June), pointing to a slow start in budget execution. While early quarters typically see slower spending due to planning and approvals, the under-utilisation in key development and welfare departments is drawing concern.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the finance portfolio, had earmarked ₹3.53 lakh crore for departmental expenditure. Of this, ₹76,154 crore was released in Q1, but only ₹49,710 crore was spent.

### Education, health, urban lead

Among regular departments, the School Education Department spent ₹6,907 crore of its ₹39,427 crore allocation (17.52%). The Health Department used ₹2,260 crore (17.75%), and the Urban Development Department led with 20% utilisation.

Water, Rural Development, and PWD spent just 11.36%, 4.59%, and 6.11% of their funds respectively

### Infrastructure spending Lags

The Water Resources Department spent ₹2,138 crore (11.36%), the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department used just ₹1,231 crore (4.59%), and the Public Works Department (PWD) spent ₹693 crore (6.11%).

### Welfare departments underperform

Departments supporting marginalised communities showed poor spending: the Social Welfare Department used 10.41%, Backward Classes Welfare spent 5.51%, Scheduled Castes Welfare just 2.70%, and Minorities Welfare 6.20% (₹281 crore).

### Guarantee schemes on track

In contrast, departments implementing the government's guarantee schemes performed better. The Energy Department, handling Gruha Jyothi (free electricity), spent ₹7,786 crore of ₹7,927 crore (28.96%).

The Women and Child Development Department, implementing Gruha Lakshmi (cash assistance to women), utilised ₹3,216 crore (9.21%). The Transport Department spent ₹712 crore (9.94%) under the Shakti scheme (free bus travel for women).

The Food Department, under Anna Bhagya (free rice), spent ₹441 crore (5.33%). The Skill Development Department spent ₹285 crore (12.02%) under Yuva Nidhi (unemployment allowance).

### Tech department spends least

The IT, BT, and Science & Technology Department reported the lowest spending at just 0.33%, with no major projects gaining traction.

### Spending may rise ahead

Officials say the low Q1 figures reflect administrative groundwork. With most departments submitting action plans, spending is expected to pick up in Q2 and Q3.

However, analysts warn that delays could hurt development and timely delivery of welfare. While guarantee schemes are largely on track, regular departmental spending will be key to meeting fiscal and public service goals.

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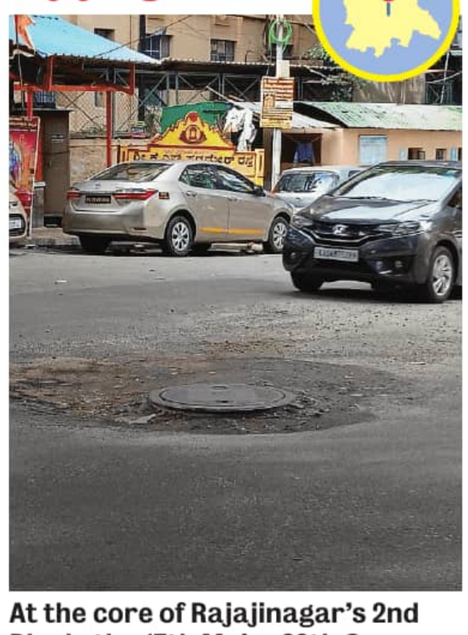
### Waste zone
**Kaggadasapura**

Daily dumping of waste on the bridge along Kaggadasapura–C V Raman Nagar Road blocks pedestrian movement and fills the air with a foul stench — a stark irony for 'Brand Bangalore'.

### Pothole peril
**Mohan Roy Road**

A massive crater on Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road, right beside a stadium, is causing major distress for motorists in the city's bustling core.

### Junction danger
**Rajajinagar**



At the core of Rajajinagar's 2nd Block, the 17th Main–28th Cross intersection near Deepak Sahakari Bank and Basaveshwara School has turned into an accident-prone zone, with speeding vehicles braking abruptly at the congested crossing.

# HC quashes case against Hindustan Unilever CEO

The Karnataka High Court nullified criminal proceedings against Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) CEO Rohit Jawa regarding food safety concerns about pesticide presence in Horlicks biscuits. The Court determined that prosecution was untenable as the company was not listed as an accused in the case.

In a ruling on July 3, Justice JM Khazi stated that prosecuting the managing director independently under the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006, was not permissible without including the company. "Admittedly, in the present case, the company is not arraigned as an accused and therefore, the petitioner who is sole accused cannot be proceeded against," the Court declared.

The case originated from a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) food safety officer's complaint in June 2023, stating that Horlicks biscuits from Downtown SuperMarket in Bengaluru contained excessive chlorpyrifos levels, violating the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011.

The special court filing excluded Hindustan Unilever Limited as an accused but pursued Jawa's prosecution under FSS Act Sections 51 and 59, citing his responsibility for company operations.

Through advocate Ahaan Mohan, Jawa contested the proceedings under CrPC Section 482, noting that Section 66 of FSS Act requires company prosecution before holding officers liable. The Court confirmed that officers cannot face prosecution without company's inclusion. It observed no evidence of Jawa's direct involvement in the alleged violation. While accepting the petition, it permitted the complainant to submit a fresh complaint with Hindustan Unilever Limited as an accused. —BMB

IN COURT

# No sealed cover status for stampede report

The Karnataka High Court rejected the state government's request to maintain a sealed cover status for a report concerning the Bengaluru stadium stampede that occurred on June 4.

The incident resulted in the death of eleven Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) supporters during celebrations of the team's first Indian Premier League (IPL) title victory.

Following the High Court's suo motu case initiation on June 5, the Karnataka government submitted a sealed report on June 12, responding to nine questions regarding responsibility for the incident.

The government sought to withhold the report's contents from litigants, citing concerns about potential interference with ongoing investigations, including judicial, magisterial, and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) police probes.

Acting Chief Justice V Kameswar Rao and Justice CM Joshi determined that the case did not warrant sealed cover status as per Supreme Court guidelines, dismissing arguments from State Advocate General KM Shashikiran Shetty and special counsel Uday Holla.

The Court dismissed concerns about the report influencing ongoing inquiries, noting that retired High Court judges and senior officials would not be susceptible to such influence. It emphasised that sharing the report would enable better understanding of the incident's causes and prevention measures. The Court ordered the State to provide copies of the June 12 report to respondents within four days of July 8. —BMB

# Code red: UPI takes a hit after GST notice shocker

**Many business owners turn reluctant to UPI payments after receiving notices from Commercial Tax Department, with lack of awareness about GST worsening situation**

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Traders, fearing tax scrutiny, are asking customers to pay in cash and offering QR codes selectively

India's ambitious move towards a less-cash, digital-first economy—heavily dependent on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)—has hit a roadblock in Bengaluru. Several small traders and shopkeepers across the city are now refusing UPI payments following the issuance of Goods and Services Tax (GST) notices by the Commercial Tax Department. Over the past few days, QR codes that once proudly occupied prime spots on bakery counters, juice shops, tea stalls, and condiment stores are now being quietly removed or hidden. Traders, fearing tax scrutiny, are asking customers to pay in cash—and only selectively offering QR codes to those who insist on digital payments.

## Panic amongst traders

Many small business owners have received GST notices demanding tax payments on transactions exceeding Rs 40 lakh, triggering widespread concern. "We are small traders, and most of the money received via UPI goes towards routine purchases. We don't hold large sums of money," explained one shopkeeper. "Getting tax notices running into lakhs has made us rethink using UPI altogether," the shopkeeper said. The issue is particularly acute for businesses dealing with mixed goods categories—such as bakeries and condiment shops—that fall under different GST slabs. For instance, cigarettes and gutka attract 28% GST, while tea has a 5% tax.

BangaloreMirror
Tax storm hits small traders: 'No clue how to pay'
BM published a story on July 14, highlighting how small traders were served massive tax notices

## Lack of awareness

Officials say that despite crossing the taxable transaction threshold, many traders remain unregistered under GST. "Several small traders have not bothered to get registered even though their turnover mandates it. Notices are being sent based on transaction data," a senior official familiar with the matter said.

Hotel Owners' Association President PC Rao noted that while hotel operators have been trained in GST compliance, small vendors lack awareness. "The government must guide them instead of penalising them blindly. When faced with notices, it's natural that they withdraw from UPI," said Rao.

## UPI boom under threat

During the pandemic, UPI usage in Bengaluru surged. In the last 3 to 4 years, the city saw UPI overtaking cash as the primary mode of payment—even amongst roadside vendors and tea stalls. In many small shops, nearly 90% of transactions were reportedly done through UPI, with just 10% in cash. However, in the absence of clear information and regulatory guidance, traders often routed payments to personal savings accounts—further complicating their tax liabilities.

## Vendors seek clarity

While vegetable vendors have reported fewer problems, fruit sellers, dry fruit dealers, and garment shop owners say they're increasingly unsure about which goods attract GST and how to comply. "We are planning to hold a meeting with traders and will then submit a representation to both the State and Central governments. Any issue faced by vendors will be brought to the association's attention," said a representative of the Street Vendors' Association.

> **"The government must guide them instead of penalising them blindly. When faced with notices, it's natural that they withdraw from UPI**
>
> — PC Rao, President, Hotel Owners' Association

The digital economy may be the future, but in Bengaluru's bustling bazaars, a cloud of uncertainty looms as the QR code revolution temporarily takes a step back.

# Devanahalli land: CM's legal hurdle remark panned

The All India Lawyers Association for Justice (AILAJ) has slammed the Chief Minister's claims of legal hurdles pertaining to the dismissal of land acquisition in Devanahalli.

Farmers from 13 villages near Channarayapatna in Devanahalli taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, have been protesting against the proposed land acquisition for construction of a High-Tech Defence and Aerospace Park. If the acquisition comes through, farmers will collectively lose over 1,777 acres of fertile land.

During this recent phase of struggle, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had called for a meeting on 4 July to discuss the issue. The Anti-Land Acquisition Struggle Committee, accompanied by leaders of farmer, Dalit, women, and working class organisations, reiterated their demand for the acquisition to be dropped. The organisation said that in a surprising turn of events, the Chief Minister requested for 10 days' time to assess the options for overcoming supposed legal hurdles to the cancellation of the land acquisition.

AILAJ clarified that there are no legal impediments stopping the state government from being able to withdraw from the acquisition. "Any helplessness portrayed by the Karnataka State Government in this regard is at best, unfounded in law, and at worst, a concoction of lies," the organisation said.

## Final call today

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will take a final call on Tuesday over land acquisition for the proposed Hi-Tech Defence and Aerospace Park in Devanahalli taluk, Industries Minister MB Patil said on Sunday. "Our priority is to strike a balance between agriculture and industry," he told reporters. While some farmers oppose the move, others have agreed to part with 449 acres and are demanding Rs 3.5 crore per acre as compensation. The government is currently evaluating the pros and cons amidst differing views amongst farmers. The minister said that the government is also considering setting up a permanent agricultural zone in the area. —Rachana Ramesh

# Bengaluru's monsoon unfolds with chill surprises

## From record highs to intense showers, July's unpredictable monsoon keeps Bengaluru wrapped in cool breezes and weather nostalgia

Sridhar.Vivan
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This July, Bengaluru has embraced its hill-station-like persona — cloaked in grey clouds, cooled by fresh showers, and filled with the earthy scent of rain. Intermittent rainfall over the past two days has brought a much-needed breather from the earlier summer spell, re-establishing the city's classic cool-and-wet July identity. According to weather experts, this year's southwest monsoon is staying true to its unpredictable nature, combining gentle spells with sudden downpours, while keeping temperatures within a comfortable tropical range.

Temperature patterns, as analysed from Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) data, reveal remarkable consistency over the past decade. Daytime highs in July have typically hovered between 30°C and 32°C, peaking at 32.7°C in 2021. Meanwhile, the coolest recent July day was recorded at 18.7°C in 2013. Historical extremes remain untouched — 33.3°C was recorded in both 1914 and 1926 as the hottest, and a chilly 16.1°C in 1882 holds the record for the coldest July day, a feat unlikely to repeat in the current era of rising temperatures.

Rainfall trends, however, reflect more variability and intensity. The years 2021 and 2022 each saw over 190 mm of rain during July, hinting at a potential shift toward more vigorous but shorter-lived monsoon bursts. Although the record for the heaviest single-day rainfall in July — 123.5 mm in 1998 — still stands, recent years have delivered significant spikes such as 82.6 mm in 2022 and 59.8 mm in 2021. The benchmark for the wettest July remains 1949, with a staggering 350.3 mm. Yet, Bengaluru's monsoon remains a mystery, with lean-rain years like 2016 and 2019 keeping forecasters on their toes.

July highs remain steady near 30–32°C, with only rare spikes recorded in recent decades

**City embraces a misty, rain-soaked July with steady temperatures, unpredictable monsoons, and climate hints offering both nostalgic charm and modern weather surprises**

Looking ahead, IMD predicts generally cloudy skies, light to moderate rain, and winds between 30–40 kmph. Temperatures are expected to stay pleasant, ranging from 29°C by day to 20°C at night.

### Cauvery reservoirs overflow, water released

Thanks to heavy rainfall in Wayanad, Kodagu, and Hassan, reservoirs across the Cauvery basin have reached full capacity. In response, Karnataka has released 77 TMC ft of water to Tamil Nadu over the past 45 days — nearly double the mandated 40.43 TMC for June and July. This surge is due to record rainfall in May and June in catchment zones. The Mettur reservoir in Tamil Nadu is now full, leading to the release of 30,000 cusecs into the sea. Karnataka released 46 TMC from KRS and over 40 TMC from Kabini. With more rain expected, authorities are now regulating outflow to prevent flooding.

## Politics mars K'taka bridge inauguration

The inauguration of Karnataka's longest cable-stayed bridge ignited a fresh political flashpoint between the Centre and the State government, overshadowing what was meant to be a moment of pride for the region.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari led the high-profile event on Monday. However, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and several cabinet colleagues boycotted it, alleging they were deliberately excluded from the invite list.

Siddaramaiah told reporters in Bengaluru that he was not invited and had informed the Centre in advance about his prior engagement in Indi taluk of Vijayapura district. "I spoke to Gadkari. He initially agreed to postpone but may have come under BJP pressure," he said. Gadkari countered the claims on social media, sharing letters dated July 11 and 12 inviting the CM to attend or join virtually. "We remain committed to cooperative federalism," he stated.

BJP MP Raghavendra also claimed he invited the CM on July 9. Meanwhile, the CM's office released a letter requesting postponement due to inadequate prior notice. The political sparring has diverted focus from the bridge's long-awaited completion. **–BMB**

## Tiger deaths spark forest suspension

In an order passed on Monday, the state government has suspended Chakrapani Y, Deputy Conservator of Forests, MM Hills Wildlife Division, citing dereliction of duty leading to the death of five tigers in the Hoogyam Range of Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (MM Hills WLS) on June 26.

The government, citing a high-level inquiry report, stated that the deaths believed to be caused by a toxic chemical compound were a result of negligence. The substance is yet to be confirmed by the Forensic Science Lab. During suspension, Chakrapani will receive a subsistence allowance as per All India Service (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969. The committee also found serious lapses in wage disbursal to outsourced staff at anti-poaching camps. Salaries for March, April, and May 2025 were delayed, prompting a protest by watchers on June 23.

Despite available funds, bills were not submitted to the Treasury in time. Several watchers said they had to borrow money at high interest rates.

The report held the officer accountable for failing in his core responsibility of ensuring timely wage payments. **–BMB**

**BM Trippin' Tales** — Consumer Connect Initiative

# Kodagu turns monsoon into adventure magnet with rafting, waterfalls push

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In a bid to revive Kodagu's tourism sector, which suffered massive setbacks during last year's monsoon due to natural disasters in neighbouring Kerala, the District Hotel, Resort, and Restaurant Association is charting new plans to promote monsoon tourism this year.

Backed by the Department of Tourism, several initiatives are being rolled out to showcase the charm of Kodagu during the rains. Water-based adventure activities such as rafting and kayaking are being actively promoted as the district's key seasonal attractions.

Two major rafting zones Dubare and Barapole have already reported a noticeable uptick in interest. The Association plans to build on this momentum by expanding white-water rafting promotions and increasing visibility for Kodagu's scenic waterfalls on social media. The aim is to draw more tourists from Karnataka and neighbouring states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.

Taking a page from Kerala's playbook after its 2018 floods, tourism stakeholders in Kodagu are adopting a similar recovery strategy. This includes strengthening public-private partnerships to market the region's unique offerings, lush monsoon-fed waterfalls, coffee blossom trails, and plantation experiences through a dedicated seasonal campaign.

The impact of last year's natural calamities in Kerala was deeply felt in Kodagu. The July 31 landslides in Wayanad prompted widespread travel advisories and cancellations, although Kodagu itself remained largely unaffected. Nonetheless, the perception of danger led to a significant drop in tourist arrivals between August and December.

Kodagu promotes majestic monsoon waterfalls across social media to attract regional tourists post-Kerala disaster

**"Compared to last year, we have seen a clear increase in visitors post-June, showing our monsoon tourism push is working**

–Kundyolanda Dinesh Cariappa
President of the Kodagu Hotel, Resort & Restaurant Association

This year, the outlook appears more hopeful. "Compared to last year, we have seen a clear increase in visitors since June. Even during heavy downpours, footfall has remained steady," said Kundyolanda Dinesh Cariappa, President of the Kodagu Hotel, Resort & Restaurant Association. "Our focus on monsoon experiences, particularly rafting and waterfalls, is starting to yield results."

However, local authorities remain on alert. With rainfall levels higher than usual since May, the risk of landslides cannot be ruled out. Tourism operators and district officials continue to track weather developments and are prioritising safety protocols for tourists.

A tourism department official noted, "With the right messaging and coordination, we believe the monsoon can become an asset. Our digital outreach, combined with immersive outdoor activities, is helping Kodagu reclaim its spot on the tourism map of South India."

BM SIMPLY PUT

**Today, we explore how Bengaluru's buses are embracing smart solutions to empower visually impaired commuters**

# See you Onboard

In a move toward inclusive public transportation, Bengaluru is introducing a new technology-enabled system to help visually impaired commuters travel independently on city buses. The system, called OnBoard, is being gradually installed in buses operated by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC). This initiative aims to reduce the reliance of visually impaired individuals on bystanders for basic travel information—like knowing which bus is arriving and when to get off—thereby promoting confidence and independence. **–BMB**

### What is OnBoard system?

OnBoard is a communication system that comprises two key components: a handheld remote carried by the commuter and a communication unit installed inside the bus, usually mounted near the entry door.

### Here's how it works

When a bus approaches a stop, the user presses the "Find" button on the remote, prompting the bus-mounted speaker to announce the route number aloud. If it matches the intended route, the user presses "Select," which sends a signal to alert the driver and conductor that a visually impaired passenger is about to board. The crew then pauses slightly longer to ensure safe and comfortable boarding. A similar process is followed near the destination, helping the user disembark safely.

### Why it matters

A BMTC official said, "Visually impaired passengers often face travel anxiety due to the lack of real-time information and assistance. The OnBoard system helps reduce this stress by alerting users when their selected bus is within a 30-metre range, facilitating safe boarding and alighting, and functioning reliably in varying weather conditions, including rain, heat, and dust."

### Where has it been implemented?

The pilot phase of OnBoard was launched on 25 BMTC buses serving routes 401K and 242B—routes often used by visually impaired commuters. Around 500 individuals were trained to use the system, and 25 of them participated in active testing. Initial feedback indicated:

### Increased sense of independence

Following the positive reception, BMTC approved the installation of the devices in 500 buses. Key routes include 401-K, 401-R, 401-M, 410FA, and 410FG, which cover areas from Yelahanka and Yeshwanthpur to Kengeri, Banashankari, and Nayandahalli.

### What lies ahead?

With 125 buses already equipped and installation ongoing, full deployment is expected by August 2025. The project is now drawing attention from other states, indicating its potential to become a model for accessible transit nationwide.

# Note to Urban Development dept offers hope to B khata property owners

Here is good news for B khata property owners who have been waiting for a building plan, Cauvery water connection and electricity supply. Deputy Chief Minister's personal secretary Dr Rajendra Prasad has written a note to the Additional Chief Secretary of Urban Development Department to take measures to avoid inconvenience to the more than 1.50 lakh property owners waiting for the plan due to the Supreme Court's direction on illegal constructions.

The note is based on a letter written by former president of BJP Bengaluru South NR Ramesh. "Most of the buildings are constructed on B khata properties. In the interest of property owners, you have to come up with a plan to sanction building plans for the structure constructed on B khata properties by imposing a penalty. You have to introduce rules and regulations for the construction of buildings in future. You are advised to take suitable measures as per the norms," the note read.

Ramesh told BM the Karnataka government has to take measures on par with Telangana and Tamil Nadu governments for the benefit of people who constructed buildings on B khata properties. "The state government must fix a deadline for regularisation of buildings constructed on B khata properties and not allow construction of the buildings against norms in future."

The recent Supreme Court judgement on illegal constructions has put lakhs of property owners in trouble as the BESCOM and BWSSB have refused to provide water connection and electricity. "We paid a deposit to the BWSSB to supply Cauvery water a few months ago but the authorities have kept my application pending. I welcome the Deputy Chief Minister Personal Secretary's note," said Sudarshan, a property owner.

**–Y Maheswara Reddy**

# Why India must protect its open natural ecosystems

**ABI TAMIM VANAK & ANUJA MALHOTRA**
**BY INVITATION**
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Deserts are often misunderstood as failed ecosystems—barren, lifeless expanses in need of redemption. Popular imagination and policy alike view these arid landscapes as degraded zones to be greened through afforestation or irrigation. However, deserts are far from broken. They are ancient, biologically rich ecosystems that have evolved to thrive under extreme conditions. Occupying nearly a third of Earth's land surface, deserts support unique species, resilient vegetation, and traditional human livelihoods adapted over centuries. To call them sterile is to ignore their subtle but powerful ecological harmony—from desert foxes sheltering beneath sand to nomadic pastoralists navigating by ancestral memory. Ironically, despite their crucial ecological role, the very term "desertification" used to describe land degradation further perpetuates their vilification.

## India's double standards

India's approach to open spaces is full of contradictions. While luxury real estate glorifies wide lawns and names like "Savana" and "Utopia," India's own expansive open natural ecosystems—grasslands, savannas, scrublands, and open woodlands—are often erased or ignored in environmental policy. This stems in part from colonial-era classifications that labelled these diverse landscapes as "wastelands." Today, this outdated terminology continues to shape policy, treating millions of hectares as land waiting to be fixed through tree planting, conversion to agriculture, or industrial development. As a result, what should be conserved for its ecological and cultural value is instead transformed beyond recognition.

## What we stand to lose

The mischaracterisation of India's drylands isn't just a semantic issue—it has deep ecological and socio-economic consequences. These ecosystems are home to rare and endangered species like the Great Indian Bustard, the caracal, and the Indian wolf. They also play a vital role in climate resilience, storing carbon not in tall trees, but deep in their soil—an important yet overlooked aspect in India's climate action plans. Equally critical are the millions of pastoralists, including communities like the Dhangar, Rabari, and Kuruba, whose livelihoods and knowledge systems are deeply intertwined with these landscapes. They are not simply surviving on marginal land, but actively sustaining ecological balance through traditional practices such as rotational grazing and seasonal migration.

## Global value of open ecosystems

Globally, open ecosystems such as Africa's savannas, South America's pampas, and Central Asia's steppes are acknowledged for their biodiversity and sustainable pastoralism. These regions have historically supported communities whose knowledge of land management is now seen as key to ecological stewardship. In contrast, India has failed to afford its open ecosystems similar recognition and protection. By classifying grasslands as wastelands, we not only erase biodiversity but also displace communities that have coexisted with these habitats for generations.

## New dryland ethic

As the planet faces increasing climate extremes and water scarcity, it's clear that deserts and drylands hold valuable lessons in resilience and frugality. The goal should not be to convert deserts into forests, but to understand how life adapts to scarcity. Reversing land degradation in these regions demands context-specific solutions that respect native vegetation and traditional land-use practices. Indigenous methods such as water harvesting, rotational grazing, and soil conservation are often more effective than high-budget afforestation projects that aim to "green" the land superficially.

## Call for policy reform

India has a timely opportunity to shift course. Policies must begin by recognising that open ecosystems are not degraded forests—they are distinct, vibrant landscapes with their ecological roles. This means supporting soil carbon retention, acknowledging pastoralist contributions, and retiring outdated labels like "wasteland." True protection begins with naming and understanding. Without that first step, conservation is impossible.

## Learning to value brown

India must learn to value brown landscapes as much as green ones. Greenness alone is not a measure of ecological health. A functioning desert or savanna—with its intricate food chains, seasonal rhythms, and cultural legacies—is far more alive than a failed monoculture plantation. On this World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, it's time we change our metaphors. Open Natural Ecosystems are not sick—they don't need to be cured. They need to be seen, understood, and allowed to thrive on their terms. The future lies not in turning the desert green, but in learning how to live well in brown.

**(The writers are from the Centre for Policy Design, ATREE.)**

## Russian found living in cave sent to detention centre

A week after Gokarna police rescued a 40-year-old Russian woman and her two young daughters from a cave in Ramateertha hills, the trio has been shifted to the Foreigners' Detention Centre in Tumakuru pending repatriation.

Identified as Nina Kutina alias Mohi, the woman had been living in isolation with her daughters, aged six and four, for nearly two weeks. She was found meditating in the cave, claiming spiritual reasons for her stay. The area was declared unsafe following a landslide in July 2024. Kutina, who came to India on a business visa that expired in 2017, had also lost her passport and travel documents. After hours of combing operations, police and forest officials recovered the expired documents. **BMB**

## Mother, daughter die by suicide at Whitefield

A woman and her 24-year-old daughter died by suicide at their home in Nagondanahalli, under Whitefield police station limits, on Monday morning. The deceased have been identified as Rachitha Reddy, a housewife, and her daughter Shreeja Reddy, a data analyst employed at a private firm. Both hailed from Andhra Pradesh.

According to police sources, Rachitha had gone to wake her daughter up at 10.30 am and found her dead. She immediately called her husband, Shreedhar Reddy, who was at work, and informed him of the incident. Shreedhar then alerted a neighbour to check on the house.

Before the neighbour could reach, Rachitha reportedly brought her daughter's body down and, in a moment of despair, ended her own life in a similar manner, police said.

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

I Radha Raju, W/o. Late Raju Rangaiah,aged about 50 years, residing at No.001, Lucky Elite Apartment, 20th Cross Road, Nisarga Manchaiah Layout, Pattanagere 2nd Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore 560098. I have changed my name from Radha Chinnaswamy to Radha Raju , VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED:12.07.2025 before notary N Sandhya, Bangalore

I, SUNEETHA BAI B T Residing at: No.60, 9th cross, Kalinga Rao Road, Bendre Nagar, Kadirenahalli, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru – 560070. I have changed my correct name to B SUNITHA. Vide affidavit dated 08/07/2025 sworn before notary. T R Raghavendra Rao Bengaluru

I, Shivaprasad Shivanand Hegde S/o Shivanand T Hegde R/o 18/4,2nd Mn, Nr Eshwara Temple, Mathikere, MSRIT, North B'lore -54 changed name as Shivaprasad Shivanand Hegde by replacing Shivaprasad S Hegde in all records for all purposes declared before Notary.

I, HITHESHREE K MURTHY D/o K.M.Krishnamurthy, residing at Kuppahalli village & post, Kasaba Hobli, Hassan Taluk, Hassan District, have Changed my daughter name YASHMITHA K. (New Name) vide affidavit Dated 03-02-2023 sworn before notary H C Vasudeva at Hassan.

I, RAMESH S/o. Sri. Sabastin, A., Resident at No. 179, 10th Cross, Channasandra Colony, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore- 560098 have changed my name to GEORGE vide Affidavit dt. 11.07.2025. sworn before notary V. Anjanappa, Bengaluru.

I Saifulla Syed S/O, Syed Samiulla R/o No 43 2nd Floor 2nd Cross Nanjappa Block Manjunatha Layout Near Gagan Jyothi Apartment Rt Nagar Post R T Nagar Bengaluru - 560032 have changed my name to Syed Saifulla Samiulla.

I, Kaarunya D/o Rajeev Nair G R/o Flat 302,Adithya Elixir Apts,ITPL Cross Road, Doddanakundi Extn,Bangalore-560048 have changed my name to Kaarunya Rajeev Affidavit Dt.14/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Rashmi Udeshi D/O, Harshad Udeshi R/o D1804, Nikoo Homes Ii, Bhartiya City, No. 6/1 Off Thanisandra Main Road, Vtc Bangalore North, Po Jakkur,bengaluru, Pincode: 560064 have changed my name to Rashmi Harshad Udeshi.

I, Sanjana Mahendra d/o Mahendra Nadagowda, R/o #1086,1st Floor 19th A Main JP Nagar 2nd Phase B'luru-560078 have changed my name to Sanjana Mahendra Nadagouda for all Purposes.

I, AYISHA R/o No 339/18 7th main DB street Bangalore 560003 have change my name from AYISHA to AYESHA for All Future Purpose

I Nayana M N D/O, M G Nagaprasad R/o Salarpuria Sattva Divinity, Tower 7, 301, Mysore Road, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru- 560026 have changed my name to G S Nayana.

I SHAFI KHAN S/o Faiyaz Khan R/o No 13/6 12th Cross Padarayanapura Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to MOHAMMED SHAFI for all Purposes

I Gowri Pandith R/o #103,1st Floor,Legend Opal, Ramana - shree California Gardens, Puttenahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to Gowri A Pandit.

I, Mohamed Zafar S/o Mohammed Khasim R/o 16/1,1st Cross, Albert Vector Rd Kalasipalyam B'lore-560002 have changed my name to Mohammed Zafar.

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# First ad, then subtract

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

know this rule exists. New drivers aren't even getting permits properly, and there's no awareness," an auto driver told BM.

### Auto unions cry communication gap

Auto unions allege that there is a serious gap in communication and awareness, especially among drivers who are not comfortable with English. Drivers allege the permits are issued in English, a language many of them are not proficient in. "The permit is in English, and most of our drivers only read Kannada. The government expects compliance, but hasn't ensured that the rules are accessible. Many fall for ad offers that pay a few hundred rupees and end up paying thousands of rupees in fines," said a source from the Auto Drivers' Union, further emphasising the need for systematic, not sudden, enforcement.

The union also called for awareness materials in Kannada, so that drivers can understand the implications of unauthorised displays.

### 812 autos booked

Between April 2025 and July 14, a total of 812 auto drivers have been booked across Bengaluru for illegal advertisements on their vehicles, according to data provided by the Regional Transport Offices (RTOs).

The highest number of cases were reported from the RTO KR Puram zone, with 209 bookings, followed by RTO Bengaluru (Central) with 157 cases and RTO Bengaluru (North) with 121. Other zones with significant action include RTO. Chandapura (108), RTO Devanahalli (73), and RTO Bengaluru (East) (42). The remaining zones, Bengaluru (West), South, Yelahanka, E-City, and Jnanabharathi, reported between 3 and 36 cases each. Auto drivers have now been instructed to immediately remove all unauthorised posters. As enforcement continues, driver unions are urging authorities to adopt a more inclusive and educational approach, one that prioritises awareness before penalties.

Interestingly, while auto drivers face penalties for displaying ads, the BMTC (Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation) continues to benefit from bus-side advertising, which reportedly generates revenue in crores of rupees. This has raised questions about the disparity in enforcement and access to advertising permissions.

# Timely distribution of books crucial to academic progress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

indent of textbooks in November and December with 10 percent of the total cost. "They collect the advance amount for the textbooks in May but fail to supply the textbooks on time. We have 800 students from first grade to 10th grade. We paid Rs 2 lakh to the Karnataka Textbook Society," said Ajaz Khan.

Coming down heavily on the authorities for the delay, Anjali Ramanna, Women and Child Rights Advocate, said delay has become the norm and is shameful. "If every year this is the decided pattern the government wants to follow then the academic calendar should be changed accordingly. If a permanent solution is not found out soon, teachers should not be obligated to complete the syllabus and quality of education should not be reviewed," said Ramanna.

Stating that timely distribution of textbooks is crucial for students' academic success and is indeed a matter of child rights, Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, said that the delay hinders students' ability to learn and keep pace with their peers. "Schools have a responsibility to advocate on behalf of their students and ensure that the government provides necessary resources, including textbooks, on time. Parents also have a right to demand these resources to support their children's education. Advocacy and communication between schools, parents, and the government are key to resolving these issues and ensuring students receive the materials they need," he said.

Demanding the Karnataka Textbook Society supply textbooks on time, Humayun Mirza, who owns a school, said that it has become tough to maintain a school due to the delay in supplying textbooks and other problems. "We have already paid the money for it. They are yet to supply 18 to 19 textbooks from Class 1 to 10th," he said. Karnataka Textbook Society officials failed to comment on the delay.

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# EVEN A DAY OFF BOOZE MAKES DIFFERENCE

## Researchers' timeline maps health benefits when you stop drinking

Alcohol has many negative effects on our health, some of which may surprise you. These include short-term impacts such as waking up with a pounding head or anxiety, to long-term effects including cancer.

If you are thinking about taking some time off alcohol, you'll find many quick wins and long-term gains for your health.

### How long will you have to wait to feel the benefits?

We've made a timeline – based on scientific research – that shows what you might feel in the first days, weeks, months and years after taking a break from alcohol.

Some benefits start immediately, so every day without alcohol is a win for your health.

What happens to your body when you stop drinking alcohol?

### After one day

Alcohol takes around 24 hours to completely leave your body, so you may start noticing improvements after just one day.

Alcohol makes you need to urinate more often, causing dehydration. But your body can absorb a glass of water almost immediately, so once alcohol is out of your system alcohol dehydration is reduced, improving digestion, brain function and energy levels.

Alcohol also reduces the liver's ability to regulate blood sugar. Once alcohol leaves the system, blood sugar begins to normalise.

If you are a daily drinker you may feel a bit worse to start with while your body adjusts to not having alcohol in its system all the time. You may initially notice disrupted sleep, mood changes, sweating or tremors. Most symptoms usually resolve in about a week without alcohol.

### After one week

Even though alcohol can make you feel sleepy at first, it disrupts your sleep cycle. By the end of an alcohol-free week, you may notice you are more energetic in the mornings as a result of getting better quality sleep.

As the body's filter, the liver does much of the heavy lifting in processing alcohol and can be easily damaged even with moderate drinking.

The liver is important for cleaning blood, processing nutrients and producing bile that helps with digestion.

But it can also regenerate quickly. If you have only mild damage in the liver, seven days may be enough to reduce liver fat and heal mild scarring and tissue damage.

Even small amounts of alcohol can impair brain functioning. So quitting can help improve brain health within a few days in light to moderate drinkers and within a month even for very heavy dependent drinkers.

### After one month

Alcohol can make managing mood harder and worsen symptoms of anxiety and depression. After a few weeks, most people start to feel better. Even very heavy drinkers report better mood after one to two months.

As your sleep and mood improve you may also notice more energy and greater wellbeing.

After a month of abstinence regular drinkers also report feeling more confident about making changes to how they drink.

You may lose weight and body fat. Alcohol contains a lot of kilojules and can trigger hunger reward systems, making us overeat or choose less healthy foods when drinking.

Even your skin will thank you. Alcohol can make you look older through dehydration and inflammation, which can be reversed when you quit.

Alcohol irritates the gut and disrupts normal stomach functioning, causing bloating, indigestion, heartburn and diarrhoea. These symptoms usually start to resolve within four weeks.

One month of abstinence, insulin resistance – which can lead to high blood sugar – significantly reduces by 25%. Blood pressure also reduces (by 6%) and cancer-related growth factors decline, lowering your risk of cancer.

### After six months

The liver starts to repair within weeks. For moderate drinkers, damage to your liver could be fully reversed by six months. At this point, even heavy drinkers may notice they're better at fighting infections and feel healthier overall.

### After one year or more

Alcohol contributes to or causes a large number of chronic diseases, including heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and seven different types of cancer, as well as mental health issues. All of these risks can be reduced by quitting or cutting back on alcohol.

Alcohol increases blood pressure. High blood pressure (hypertension) is the top risk factor for death in the world. A small 2mmHg increase in blood pressure above the normal range (120mmHG) increases death from stroke by 10% and from coronary artery disease by 7%.

Cutting back on alcohol to less than two drinks a day can reduce blood pressure significantly, reducing risk of stroke and heart disease. Reducing blood pressure also reduces risk of kidney disease, eye problems and even erectile dysfunction.

With sustained abstinence, your risk of getting any type of cancer drops. One study looked at cancer risk for more than 4 million adults over three to seven years and found the risk of alcohol-related cancer dropped by 4%, even for light drinkers who quit. Reducing from heavy to moderate drinking reduced alcohol-related cancer risk by 9%.

### Making a change

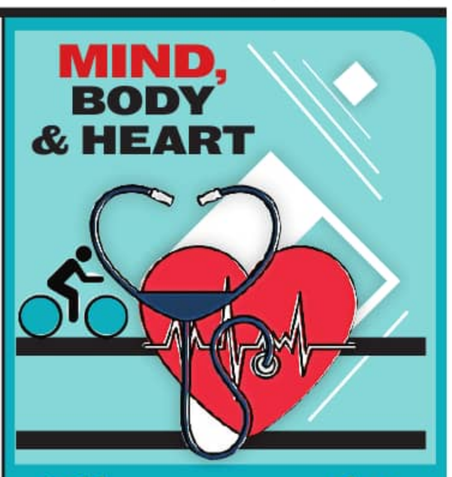
Any reduction in drinking will have some noticeable and immediate benefits to your brain and general health. The less you drink and the longer you go between drinks, the healthier you will be.

Whether you aim to cut back or quit entirely, there are some simple things you can do to help you stick with it:

- set clear goals plus the smaller steps you need to take to get there
- pay attention to the benefits you notice from quitting
- monitor your progress with a Drink Tracker
- get support from others, for instance counselling

If you have tried to cut back and found it difficult you may need professional help.

*(By Nicole Lee, Curtin University and Katinka van de Ven, UNSW Sydney, The Conversation)*




## All you need to know about...

*Scalp care*

**The root**

For decades now, haircare routines spotlighted strands and ends. Splits, dry strands, and bleached hair. Haircare consisted of a shampoo that smelled like the tropics, conditioner that promised gloss, and a serum or two to combat frizz. But now, we are focusing more on the root of the matter -- the scalp

**The new beauty essential**

The scalp is more like your face than you might realize—it has pores, sebaceous glands, and needs balance just like any other skin. Yet it was often overlooked, seen only as a place to rinse shampoo away. But here's the thing–clogged pores, dryness, or irritation here can lead to hair problems like thinning, dullness, and stubborn flakes.

Thankfully, now, scalp care is finally getting the spotlight it deserves, with products and rituals designed specifically to nurture it—because great hair truly begins with a happy, healthy scalp.

**New scalp routine**

This isn't just shampoo and rinse anymore. Scalp care has evolved into a thoughtful ritual. It begins with gentle exfoliation to clear buildup without stripping natural oils—using scrubs or chemical exfoliants like salicylic acid. Start slow, exfoliate once or twice a week, and keep your routine consistent for the best results.

Next up are hydrating serums packed with niacinamide, peptides, and hyaluronic acid to soothe and balance.

Add a few drops of essential oils like tea tree or rosemary, and you've got an at-home scalp spa. And if you want to go next-level, tools like infrared massagers and silicone brushes are here to boost circulation and calm tension. Also, don't forget to massage your scalp regularly, using your fingertips or a soft silicone brush, to boost circulation and promote relaxation.

—Femina

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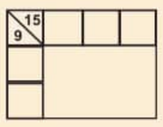
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror


## SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

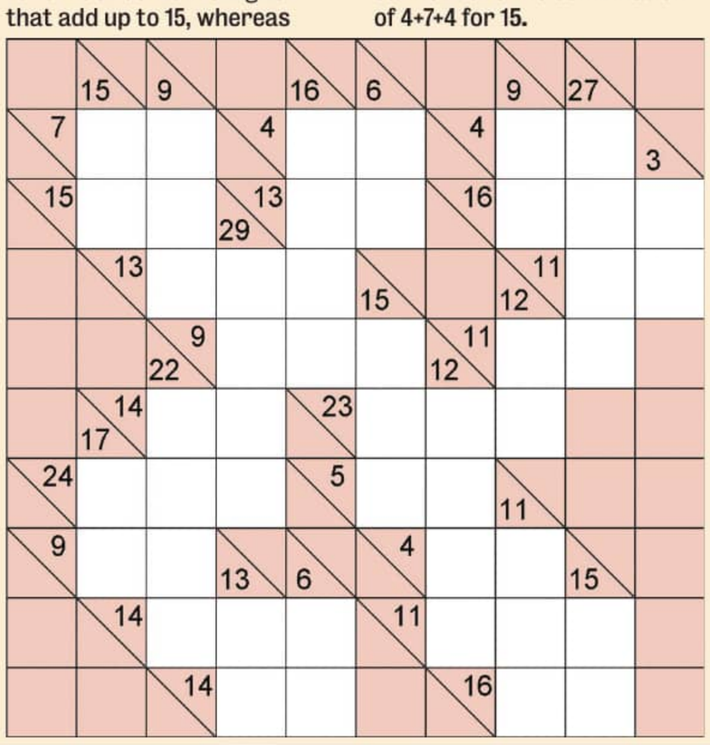
(8÷(5×10)÷2) / ((8÷5)×10÷2) = ?

## Kakuro

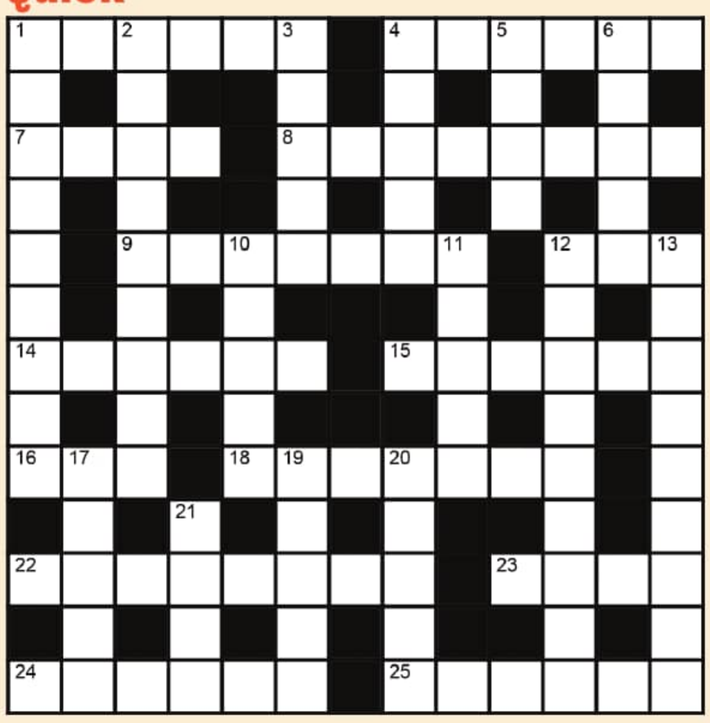
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Conventional (6)
4 Zend ___ : Zoroastrian holy book (6)
7 Stink (4)
8 Perfectly happy? (8)
9 Ironic or sarcastic (7)
12 Stomach muscles (3)
14 Tree-lined road (6)
15 Did damage to (6)
16 H in "HMV" (3)
18 Dwarfish (7)
22 Karnataka Rajyotsava is celebrated on the 1st of ____ (8)
23 Competent (4)
24 Trigonometric function (6)
25 Biblical departure (6)

**DOWN**

1 Section of a newspaper article (9)
2 Superintendents (9)
3 Jewish religious leader (5)
4 Anatomical sacs (5)
5 Neither difficult nor hard? (4)
6 First digit of the human hand (5)
10 Boasts (5)
11 Boat, artifice or skills (5)
12 Gujarat city (9)
13 Dodges or evades (9)
17 Wishful words (1,4)
19 Kingdom north of India; now under Chinese dominion (5)
20 Hospital employee (5)
21 ___ Lynn : the famous singer? (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: W EQUALS G**

XTJBZVJBX VZ VX QBZZBS ZT UTXB MKI IT ZDB SVWDZ ZD-VKW ZDMK ZT AVK MKI IT ZDB ASTKW ZDVKW.

## Linemaro

You and I have a love so secret that not even you know about it; but first let me introduce myself

## Mindchow

Ecstasy is happiness with its clothes off

## Joke of the day

You can safely assume that you have created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do

## Loop

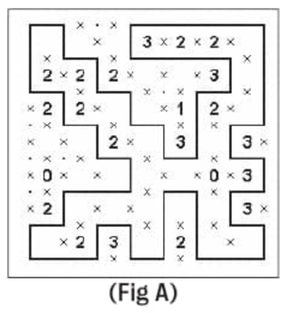
### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

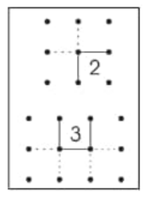
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

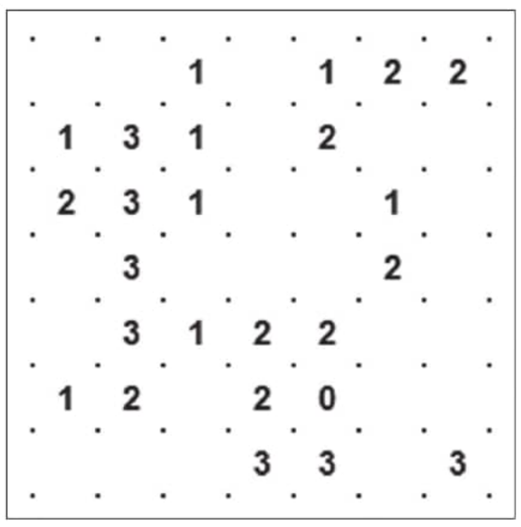
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



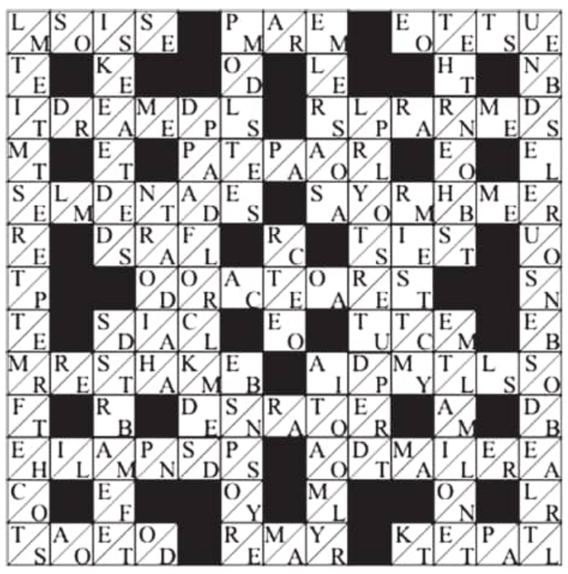
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



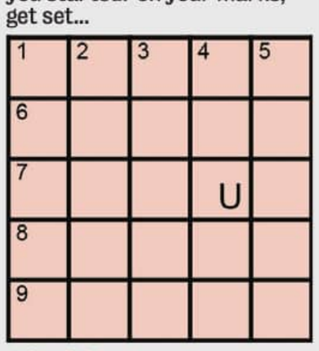
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...




**ACROSS**

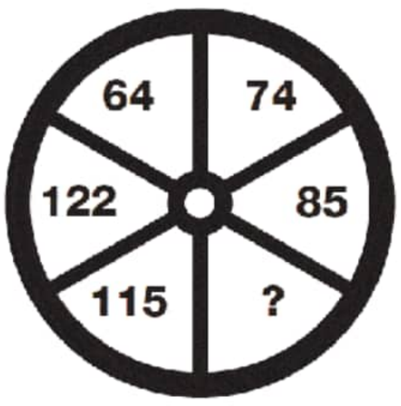
1 C E Cob; 6 A Lyra; 7 Muler; 8 Ena me; 9 SS Bot

**DOWN**

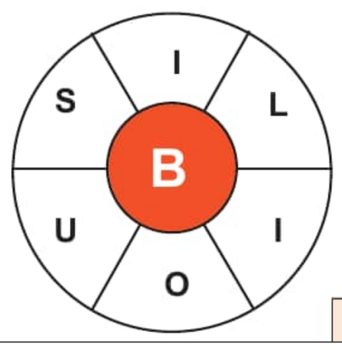
1 Basel; 2 Lento; 3 Comae; 4 Mr Cub; 5 Years

## Mensapuzzle

Ho




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**01** Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | | | 8 | | | 9 | |
| | | 1 | 9 | | 4 | 3 | | |
| | | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 7 |
| 9 | | 3 | | | | 6 | | 1 |
| 6 | | | | | | | | 8 |
| | | 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | | |
| | | 9 | 4 | | 2 | 5 | | |
| | 6 | | | 5 | | | 2 | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 14

2 4 4 4

**Medium** = 15

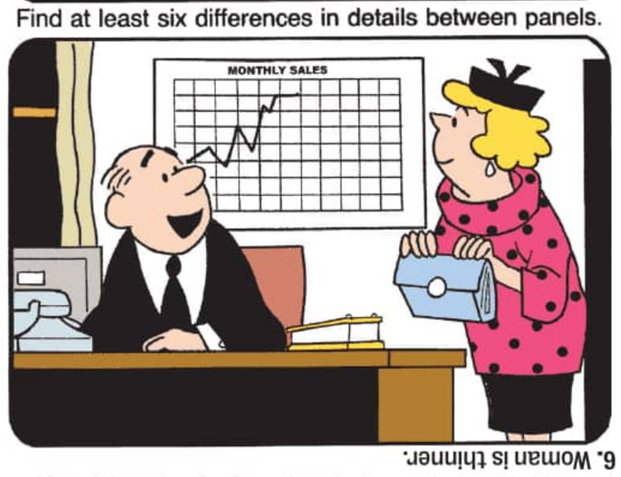
1 2 6 7

**Hard** = 1

2 2 3 3

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.




**Differences:** 1. Sleeve is shorter. 2. Desk is larger. 3. Purse is different. 4. Chart is wider. 5. Hand is on desk. 6. Woman is thinner.

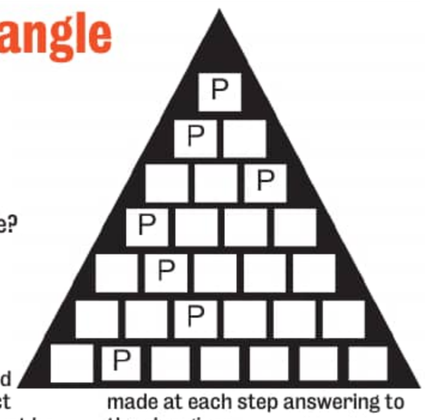
## Riddler

Each pair of definitions is for two words, where the second word is the first word with an extra letter added somewhere (example: band & brand). The length of the short word in each pair is provided.

1) a low or open slipper & malicious gossip (6 letters)
2) a mark used to indicate the place where something is to be inserted & a floor covering (5 letters)

## Alpha triangle

1 Parking sign
2 A constant
3 Playful bite
4 Brooches
5 Backbone
6 Reaches fruition
7 Ashwin or Kumble?

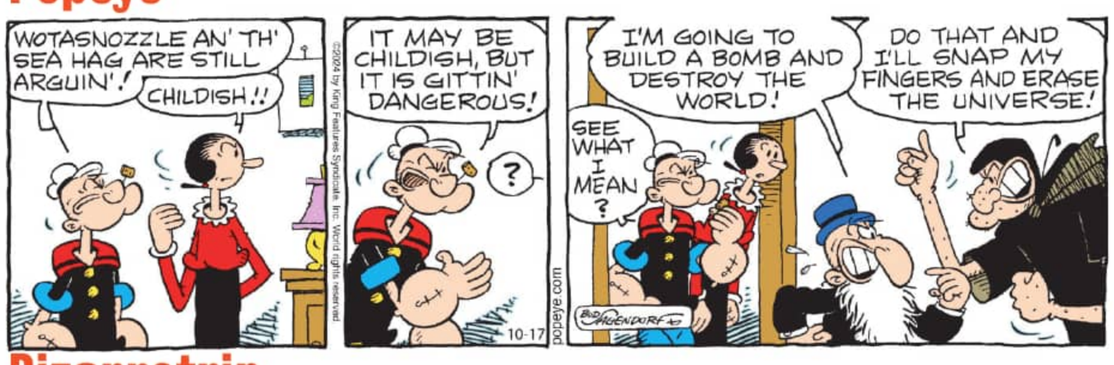



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Popeye


WOTASNOZZLE AN' TH' SEA HAG ARE STILL ARGUIN'!
CHILDISH!!
IT MAY BE CHILDISH, BUT IT IS GITTIN' DANGEROUS!
?
10-17
I'M GOING TO BUILD A BOMB AND DESTROY THE WORLD!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
DO THAT AND I'LL SNAP MY FINGERS AND ERASE THE UNIVERSE!
BUD SAGENDORF
popeye.com
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## Bizarrotrip

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

OKAY!
WE'VE GOT THREE CATEGORIES:
BRAINS, BRAWN, AND DEXTERITY.
IT'S INCREDIBLY DATED TO HAVE A BATTLE OF THE GENDERS, BUT IT'S IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO GIVE UP NOW.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2021 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
STEENZ

## Crankshaft

SO HOW DID BIG WALNUT TECH GET ROCKY TO ENTER THE TRANSFER PORTAL BEFORE THE START OF THE RODEO?
SCHOOL BUS RODEO
APPARENTLY THEY OFFERED HIM A BRAND NEW BUS... HIS CHOICE OF BUS ROUTES... MORE MONEY... AND BETTER BAKED GOODS IN THE BREAK ROOM.
SCHOOL BUS
STOP
4-8
SHOOT! WE COULD'VE KEPT HIM UNTIL THAT LAST ONE THERE!
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

## Mutts

OH, MY "LI'L EARL" WAS VERY HARD TO TRAIN.
HIM!?!?
YESH! I HAD TO SHOW HIM WHO'S THE BOSS!
HE'S A TOUGH GUY!?!?
SURE... HE THINKS HE'S THE "ALPHA SHNAIL".
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com
PATTIS © PATRICK MCDONNELL · DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
4-8

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you'll find that chaotic situations are settling down, bringing peace of mind. You'll be able to strike a balance between income and expenses, boosting your savings. Avoid excessive travel or overworking, as it may affect your health. Students can begin planning for higher studies. Love birds will enjoy pleasant, quality time together.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Health concerns may make you feel impatient today. Control your temper, as emotional outbursts could lead to strained relationships. Avoid spending on unnecessary items—it may deplete your savings. Love birds should steer clear of petty arguments to avoid misunderstandings or potential separation.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
A powerful connection with an influential person may open new doors for your professional growth. With their support, your network will expand. You may implement new ideas at work or in business, and consider increasing capital investments, likely leading to future gains. Social events and family gatherings will keep you engaged.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Your mother's health shows improvement, bringing emotional relief. You'll enjoy your professional responsibilities and may receive recognition or rewards for your efforts. Your social image is likely to improve. However, heavy mental workload may leave you too tired to attend family events.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
You'll feel content and fulfilled at work today. A short business trip may be on the cards. Visiting a spiritual or religious place could help restore your inner peace. Guidance from a mentor or spiritual figure may offer clarity about your personal or professional goals.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
A low mood may weigh you down today. It's important to remain calm and think twice before taking action. If you're traveling to recover money, be cautious to avoid financial losses. Avoid adventurous travel. Students should focus on deep, concentrated study for the best results.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
You might plan a home renovation or purchase artistic and decorative items to enhance your living space and social image. Property and asset investments are also favoured. Romance flourishes—expect meaningful moments with your spouse. Singles may find a potential partner, and couples may discuss marriage.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
A positive day lies ahead. Long-standing family health issues may finally improve. Stuck finances may be recovered, increasing liquidity in your business. Working professionals might receive incentives. Job seekers may secure opportunities through references. Students may receive helpful academic support from friends.

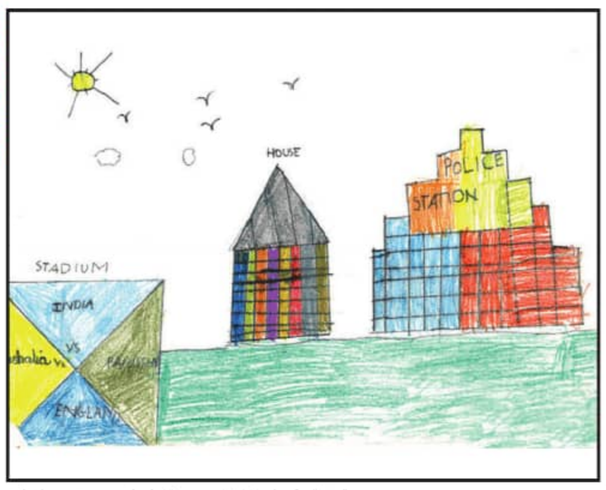
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Domestic life takes priority today. You may be busy with your children and could hear good news regarding their education. You might buy creative items for your home or workplace to enhance your image. Use wisdom when purchasing household items or jewellery to avoid overspending.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel impatient, which could affect the quality of your work. Avoid rushing—minor mistakes may delay important tasks. It's best to postpone investments in fixed assets for now. However, with blessings from elders, you'll find clarity and regain focus by evening.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Blessed by the Moon, your destiny supports you today. You'll be full of energy and focus, with your hard work leading to success. Support from colleagues will make tasks easier. A short work-related trip is possible. You may also receive good news from a sibling. Renovation plans for your home or office may test your creativity.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
You'll successfully curb unnecessary spending, leading to better savings. Creativity is high—you may apply it both at work and home, which could boost your reputation. Love birds may receive support from family or friends regarding marriage plans.

## KIDZONE




Adithya Prasad, 9 Years, Brigade School

Gowri S Setty, 14 Years, Prarthana School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
= 0.08 ÷ 8 = 0.01

**BULL'S EYE**
BILLIOUS, boil, slob

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | O | E | D | | R | A | Y | | T | E | A | T |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | O | S | S | | P | A | M | | E | T | T | U |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | R | A | M | P | S | | S | P | A | R | E | D |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | M | E | N | D | S | | S | O | M | B | E | R |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | | D | A | L | | R | | T | I | S | | O |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | | D | O | C | T | O | R | S | | | | N |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | S | I | C | | O | | U | T | E | | E |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | E | T | A | K | E | | I | D | Y | L | L | S |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | R | | E | N | A | T | E | | A | | B |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | L | A | N | D | S | | A | D | M | I | R | E |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | F | | O | | L | | | N | | | L |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | O | E | D | | R | A | Y | | T | E | A | T |

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Sometimes it is better to lose and do the right thing than to win and do the wrong thing.

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | O | C | C | E |
| A | L | A | R | Y |
| L | E | M | U | R |
| E | N | E | M | A |
| S | T | O | B | S |

**RIDDLER**
1) sandal & scandal
& 2) caret & carpet

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | R | O | P | E | R | | A | V | E | S | T | A |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | | R | | B | L | I | S | S | F | U | L | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | E | E | K | | B | | N | | Y | | M | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | S | A | T | I | R | I | C | | A | B | S |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | V | E | N | U | E | | H | A | R | M | E | D |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | | R | | T | | | | F | | E | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | I | S | | S | T | U | N | T | E | D | | S |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | O | V | E | M | B | E | R | | A | B | L | E |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | | | | I | | U | | | A | | | T |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | E | C | A | N | T | | E | X | O | D | U | S |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
98. Starting with the lowest number and moving clockwise, add the separate digits of the first number together and add this to the original number, writing the result in the next segment along.

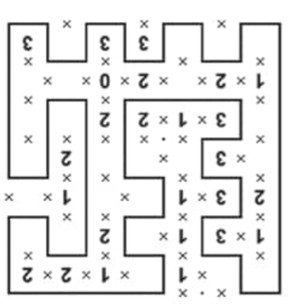
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 7 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 |

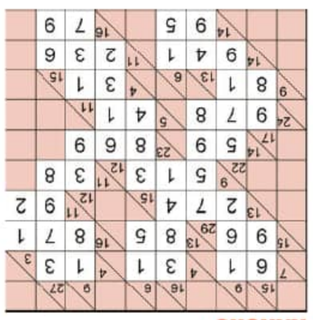
**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
p, pi, Nip, pins, Spine, Ripens, Spinner.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
4 + 4 + 2 + 4 = 14
Medium
7 + 2 + 6 x 1 = 15
Hard
3 / 3 − 2 + 2 = 1

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**



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**# Stunt artist dies**
Stunt artist SM Raju passes away doing a car toppling sequence in Pa. Ranjith's film

**Saroja Devi:** January 7, 1938 - July 14, 2025

# Farewell, legend

Veteran actress B Saroja Devi, known as Abhinaya Saraswathi, passed away at the age of 87 on Monday. Saroja Devi, who acted in around 200 movies in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi, was said to have been suffering from age-related illness and breathed her last at her Malleswaram residence.

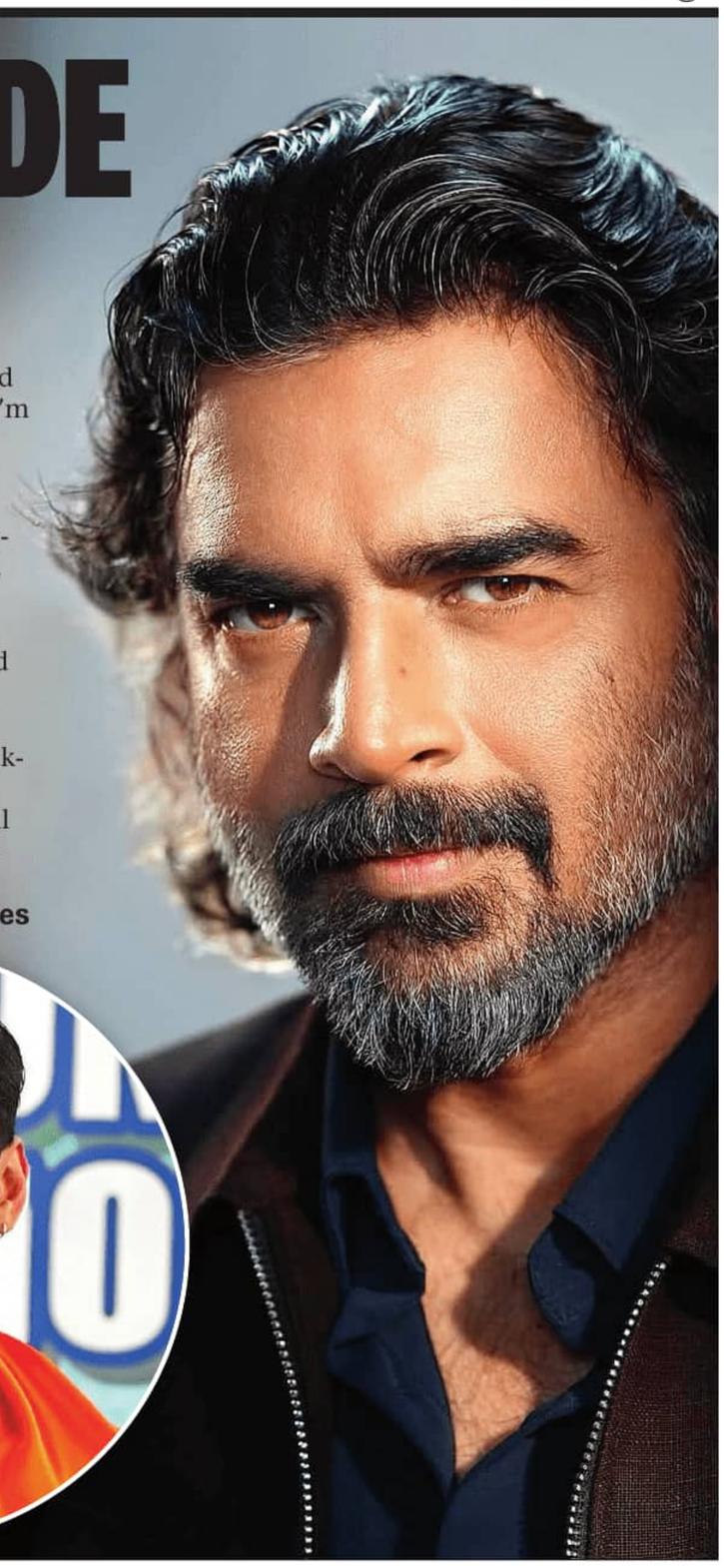
Saroja Devi debuted in Sandalwood with Mahakavi Kalidasa in 1955. She was paired opposite Honnappa Bhagavathar in Mahakavi Kalidasa. She has also acted in movies with Dr Rajkumar and Kalyan Kumar. Among the Kannada movies, Kittoor Rani Chennamma, Bhagyavantharu, Amarashilpi Jakanachari, Sri Srinivasa Kalyana are considered her best movies. Her first Tamil movie Thirumanam was with Gemini Ganesanand Telugu movie was Panduranga Mahatyam in which NT Rama Rao played the lead. She has acted in Telugu movies such as Pelli Kanuka, Intiki Deepam Illale, Seetharama Kalyanam, Jagadeka Veeruni Katha. Her 25th movie was Sengottai Singam, 50th movie was Iruvar Ullam, 75th movie Thaayum Magalum, 100th movie was Pen Endral Pen, 125h movie was Thangamalar. Coincidentally, all the milestones in her career were Tamil movies. She also first appeared in Bollywood with Opera House. Her other Hindi movies are Pyar Kiya Toh Darna Kya, Pareeksha, Beti Bete, Dooj Ka Chand, and Hong Kong. She was awarded the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan for her contribution to movies.

Many personalities, including Dr Shivarajkumar, Raghavendra Rajkumar, Priyanka Upendra, Tara, Malavika Avinash, visited Saroja Devi's residence to pay their last respects to the departed soul.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Cabinet Ministers, and others offered condolences. **—BMB**

# FATHER'S PRIDE

## Madhavan reveals gruelling routine followed by his swimmer son



R Madhavan whose latest film 'Aap Jaisa Koi' is winning hearts is quite a heartthrob and has remained so over the years. The actor has been married to Sarita Birje for about 26 years and has a 19-year old son who is a swimmer. He's won five Golds at the Malaysian Open, a gold and silver at the Danish Open, and bronzes at the Latvian and Thailand Opens. He also placed fifth at the Commonwealth Youth Games.

In a recent interview, Madhavan has opened up on how disciplined his son is. He said during a chat with GQ that Vedant wakes up at 4am and his day ends at 8pm. He said, "As a professional swimmer, Vedaant's day ends at eight o'clock, and then he's up again at four in the morning. It's the most demanding part of the job, not just for him, but also for his parents. [Laughs] That hour is called brahma muhurta, said to be the most spiritually conducive time to wake up."

He added, "He's 6'3", has a swimmer's body and follows a hyper disciplined lifestyle. He added, "Even eating is an exercise for him; he doesn't just sit down for dinner, he has to focus on chewing and on meal balance, among other things. I wish I had that kind of discipline; I think I'm actually quite lazy—I just get away with it by calling myself a creative person."

He also opened up about parenting and modern fatherhood, saying that children today are "hyper-aware, thanks to social media," and that parents should avoid forcing their opinions on them. "Since Vedaant was five, I've spoken to him like I'm speaking to you, and have taken his opinions seriously," he said. "All you can do is share your experience and ensure their environment is safe..." **—ETimes**

# Reunited on screen

After the success of Ved in 2023, Genelia Deshmukh has confirmed that a sequel is in the works. The Marathi film, directed by her husband Riteish Deshmukh and a remake of the Telugu hit Majili, resonated deeply with audiences. In a conversation with Mirror, Genelia shared, "Right now, Riteish and I are busy with our individual projects. But as soon as we find time, we'll work on a film together. Ved 2 is definitely on the cards! It might take a year or two, but people keep asking about it, and it has to happen."

Genelia also revealed that Ved was a hit not just with audiences but with their sons Riaan and Rahyl too. "We've shown them films like Ved and Dhamaal, but they haven't seen Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na yet. Recently, they watched Sitaare Zameen Par. I made a conscious decision to take them because it's a film about inclusion and empathy—it teaches important life lessons. I even took 30 kids along to watch it. The film shows that everyone has their own version of normal. I was proud to be part of it. I've really missed films that speak to kids." Talking about audiences returning to theatres, Genelia said, "A good film always finds its audience. People don't avoid theatres, I think sometimes the content is just not engaging enough for them."

**—Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes**

# Wholesome entertainment for fans: Yuva Rajkumar

Yuva Rajkumar is excited about the release of his latest movie Ekka, which is scheduled for release on July18. The movie is being bankrolled by PRK Productions, KRG Studios, and Jayanna Films. It is directed by Rohit Padaki.

The huge success of the film's song Bangle Bangari indicates that the movie has the potential to become a game changer in Sandalwood, which is going through a lean period. The plot revolves around a cab driver who faces a lot of problems in Bengaluru.

"We have already narrated the story of Ekka through its trailer. Moviegoers and fans have liked it. The movie has all elements, including sentiment, action, and romance. All people have problems in life and the important thing is that they have to move on with life irrespective of the problems. The protagonist Muthu craves for a peaceful life. I play the cab driver for which I interacted with many drivers to understand their lifestyle," said Yuva Rajkumar.

On the experience of the shooting, Yuva Rajkumar said that he is familiar with the shooting locations. "I welcome suggestions from the assistants working on the set during the shooting. Their encouragement and support motivated me. The protagonist in the movie is from a village and he is a talkative person. Director Rohit Padaki has tried to convey a lot through the dialogues," he said.

About the success of the song, he said that many people identified him through this song. "The movie has two love stories. We have already revealed one of the love stories. I cannot reveal the other. All audiences will connect with this movie. The movie has five songs. Shruthi ma'am has acted well. Atul Kulkarni and Aditya have also acted well," he said. **—BMB**